informed the Central Government that 12 towns and cities have been identified for integrated development of tourism in the State.

(b) The towns and cities identified by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of tourism are:

(i) Jhansi
(ii) Sarnath
(iii) Khushinagar
(iv) Piprahawa (Kapilavastu),
(v) Sravasti,
(vi) Sankesia
(vii) Kaushambhi,
(viii) Varanasi
(ix) Chunar
(x) Agra
(xi) Vrindavan
(xii) Lucknow

Boost to Tourism Industry

1749. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States and Europe take 78 per cent stake of tourism, whereas India has a meager of 0.4 per cent tourist while the rest of South Asia take 0.5 per cent of tourists;

(b) whether irrational taxes, high visa fees, lack of lending permit facilities and unhygienic conditions including beggar menace are some of the important drawbacks for Indian Tourism Industry; and

(c) if so, what urgent steps are being taken by Government to give boost to the Tourism Industry as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) As per the latest report of World Tourism Organisation, USA and Europe had a share of 65.0% in the world's tourist arrivals in the year 2000 while the share of India was 0.38% and that of the rest of the South Asia was 0.52% in the same period.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Several measures are in hand including the following:

1. Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity;

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;

(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure;

(5) Developing sustained and effective marketing plans and programs;

(6) Special trust to rural and small segment tourism; and

(7) Attention to civilisation issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.

Development of rural tourist spots

†1750. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to develop tourist spots in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the rural tourist spots earmarked for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to attract foreign tourist towards rural tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed to develop tourist spots in rural areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) Decision to identify rural tourist spots will be taken after the approval of the scheme by the Planning Commission.

(c) The steps to attract foreign tourist towards rural tourist spots include improvement of the environment, hygiene, infrastructure etc.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.